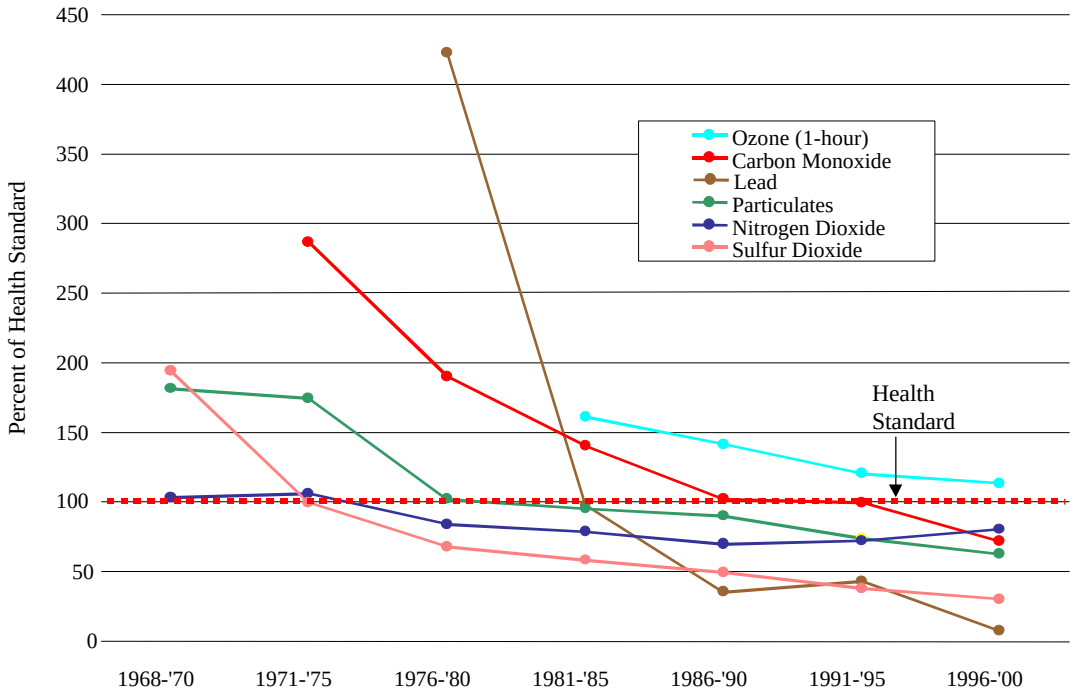
MILESTONES and OBJECTIVES: 1) Attain the 1-hour and 8-hour air quality standards for Ozone (O_3) statewide by 2007 (by 2005 in the south for 1-hour ozone); 2) Attain Carbon Monoxide (CO) standards statewide by 2002; 3) Maintain current attainment status for Lead (Pb); 4) Maintain current attainment status for inhalable particulate matter (PM10) and attain the new air quality standards for fine particulates (PM2.5) by 2007; 5) Maintain current attainment status for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2); and 6) Attain Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2) standards statewide by 2002.

INDICATOR: Criteria Air Pollutants (O_3, CO, Pb, Particulates, NO_2, SO_2)

Criteria Air Pollutant Trends (30 Years)



Percent of Health Standard (5-year Average Values used to Assess Attainment[1])

	Ozone	Carbon Monoxide	Lead	Particulates	Nitrogen Dioxide	Sulfur Dioxide
1968-'70	---	---	---	181	103	194
1971-'75	---	287	---	175	106	99
1976-'80	---	191	423	102	84	68
1981-'85	161	140	98	95	79	59
1986-'90	141	102	36	90	70	49
1991-'95	121	100	43	74	72	38
1996-'00	114	72	8	63	81	31

Since the Department began collecting data in the late 1960's, air quality has improved dramatically. At the present time, the state is meeting the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for all air pollutants with the exception of ground level ozone. In 1997, new NAAQS for ozone and particulate matter were established. The new ozone standard is more stringent and will thus be more difficult to attain. The new standard for particulate matter focuses on smaller particles which are more likely to have adverse health effects. A new monitoring program was established to measure levels of these fine particles but there is not yet sufficient data to determine whether the standard is being met.

Data Source: NJDEP Air Quality Management Program

[1] *O_3 = 2nd Highest 1-hour Average* *Pb = Maximum Quarterly Average* *SO_2 = 2nd Highest Daily Average*
CO = 2nd Highest 8-hour Average *Particulates, NO_2 = Annual Average*

This fact sheet contains the most current, available data. For additional background information as well as values used to develop this indicator, please see the Ozone, Carbon Monoxide, Lead, Particulates, Nitrogen Dioxide, and Sulfur Dioxide write-ups in the Environmental Indicators Technical Report, 2nd Edition, as well as the 2000 Air Quality Annual Report.